

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01

NEA-10 IO-14 /170 W

----- 064023

R 130730Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1801

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VN, SW

SUBJECT: PHAM VAN DONG VISIT TO SWEDEN

SUMMARY: NORTH VIETNAMESE PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG'S STATE VISIT
WAS MOST SUCCESSFUL VISIT OF ANYONE HERE IN MANY YEARS, WITH
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SWEDES OF ALL STRATA TURNING OUT FOR WARM WELCOME AND MEDIA

GIVING HEAVY COVERAGE. DONG'S HERO IMAGE HERE, LONGTIME MEDIA INDOCTRINATION, AND TIMING AT EASTER-SPRING ALL COMBINED FOR SUCCESS. HOWEVER WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS VISIT WILL CHECK STEADY DIMINUTION OF INTEREST IN VIETNAM. END SUMMARY

1. IN HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO A WESTERN COUNTRY, NORTH VIETNAM PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG SCORED A ROUSING SUCCESS DURING APRIL 8-11 VISIT TO SWEDEN. EVEN THE NORMALLY ANTI-HANOI CONSERVATIVE PAPER SVENSKA DAGBLADET REMARKED UPON THE SINCERITY AND SPONTANEOUS WARMTH OF THE RECEPTION FROM ALL STRATA HERE.

2. PRIME MINISTER PALME MET VAN DONG AT AIRPORT AND WAS WITH HIM THROUGHOUT MOST OF TRIP, EVEN CANCELLING TWO DAYS OF HIS EASTER VACATION IN ORDER TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIM. EVENTS INCLUDED A STATE DINNER, MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS, LUNCH WITH THE KING, TOURS OF STOCKHOLM, MEETINGS WITH HANOI SUPPORT GROUPS (PRIMARILY THE PNL GROUPS), A VISIT TO A PULP MILL IN SUNDSVALL, VARIOUS OTHER TOURS AND A PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. PHAM VAN DONG WAS SMILINGLY TACITURN THROUGHOUT MOST OF VISIT. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY HE WAS ADROIT BUT RATHER BLAND, AVOIDING ABRASIVE REPLIES, AND PROJECTED IMAGE OF GENIAL OLD GRANDFATHER. ASKED ABOUT SWEDISH RECOGNITION OF PRG, HE REPLIED IT WAS SWEDEN'S DECISION TO MAKE BUT STRESSED THAT PRG IS ONLY TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM. AT ANOTHER RALLY HE WAS ASKED SAME QUESTION AND HE REFERRED TO "VERY REPRESENTATIVE SWEDISH DELEGATIONS" WHICH HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT FOR THEMSELVES WHO IS IN COMMAND IN SOUTH VIETNAM. INCIDENTALLY, CROWD AT THIS POINT BEGAN CHANTING "RECOGNIZE, RECOGNIZE PRG," WHICH CAUSED PALME TO LOOK MOST UNCOMFORTABLE, ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPERS.

4. DISCUSSING INDOCHINA DONG SAID "THE THIRD INDOCHINA WAR HAS NOT BEGUN. THIS IS WAR GOING ON IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, BUT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE REPRESENTED BY HANOI AND PRG WILL NOT PERMIT ANYONE TO SABOTAGE THE VIETNAM AGREEMENT... THE NEW LAOS TREATY AND THE COALITION THERE WILL BE A BETTER GUARANTEE FOR NORTH VIETNAM'S SECURITY THAN EARLIER TREATIES. THEY WERE SABOTAGED BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS...OUR STRUGGLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MIRRORSSTRUGGLE OF PEOPLE OF THE WORLD AGAINST AGGRESSION, AND IT WILL CONTINUE, HOPEFULLY BY PEACEFUL MEANS. NOW MORE THAN EVER THE NORTH VIETNAMESE STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH THE CAMBODIANS. THE THREE PEOPLE OF INDOCHINA ARE ONE...WE GROW STRONGER EVERY DAY, WHILE THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT GETS WEAKER.

5. MAIN THEME OF DONG'S VISIT WAS THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO SWEDEN FOR CONSISTENT AND SOLID SUPPORT. TO EMPHASIZE INTEN-

TIONS OF CONTINUING SUPPORT GOS ANNOUNCED DURING VISIT A MAMMOTH NEW SWEDISH AID PROJECT WHICH WILL COST 600 MILLION KRONOR (\$136 MILLION AT CURRENT EXCHANGE). THIS PROJECT, A FOREST INDUSTRY COMPLEX, WILL BE SWEDEN'S BIGGEST AID PROJECT TO DATE. IT WAS ALSO NOTED DURING VISIT THAT NORTH VIETNAM WILL GET 120 MILLION SKR IN AID DURING FY 1974 AND 170 MILLION SKR DURING FY 1975.

6. ALTHOUGH DONG OCCASIONALLY SNIPED AT AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS, PALME AND OTHER GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED MENTIONING EITHER USG OR GVN, AT LEAST DIRECTLY. THEY ALSO AVOIDED POINTING BLAME FOR VIOLATIONS AT PARIS AGREEMENT. AT WELCOMING SPEECH PALME SAID: "IMPORTANT RESULTS WERE REACHED BY PARIS AGREEMENT. BOMBS ARE NO LONGER DROPPED OVER RICE PADDIES OR OVER TOWNS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. ALL FOREIGN

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TROOPS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN. NOW IT IS UP TO THE VIETNAMESE
THEMSELVES TO FORM THEIR OWN DESTINY. SWEDEN SYMPATHIZES WITH
SIX POINT PROPOSAL RECENTLY PRESENTED BY PRG. THESE POINTS
COULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR A REALIZATION OF POLITICAL CONTENT OF
THE TREATY." PALME AVOIDED SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT RECOGNITION
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OF PRG AND DONG SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED CORNERING HIM ON SUBJECT,
AT LEAST PUBLICLY. (WE HAVE NOT BEEN BRIEFED ON ANY PRIVATE
CONVERSATIONS AS VIRTUALLY ALL SWEDISH OFFICIALS HAVE DISAPPEARED
FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS.)

7. LEADERS OF OTHER FOUR SWEDISH PARTIES REPRESENTED IN RIKSDAG
TOOK NO OFFICIAL PART IN ACTIVITIES, BUT NOT BY DESIGN APPARENTLY.
COMMUNIST LEADER HERMANSSON IS OFF ON A TRIP TO HANOI, WHILE
CENTER, MODERATE AND LIBERAL LEADERS WERE IN THEIR COUNTRY
PLACES VACATIONING--THE EASTER HOLIDAY IS SACROSANCT IN SWEDEN.
HOWEVER, IN TYPICAL PLOY, DURING SUNDSVALL TRIP PALME NOTED THEY
WERE CLOSE TO FARM OF THORBJORN FALLDIN, LEADER OF OPPOSITION.
PALME CALLED FALLDIN, INVITED HIM TO LUNCH WITH DONG. FALLDIN
HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT (HAVING NOTED MASSIVE FAVORABLE
PUBLICITY ON VISIT). AND THUS OPPOSITION LEADER, WHO
ALTHOUGH CERTAINLY NOT ANTI-HANOI HAS SHOWN LITTLE
ENTHUSIASM FOR MASSIVE AID TO NORTH VIETNAM, WAS MANEUVERED
INTO MEETING WITH DONG.

8. SWEDISH MEDIA ATTENTION, OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE,
WAS VERY HEAVY BEFORE AND DURING VISIT. AS NOTED EVEN
SVENSKA DAGBLADET HAD KIND WORDS, THOUGH REMINDING ITS
READERS IN SEVERAL EDITORIALS THAT HANOI IS CERTAINLY NOT
A DEMOCRACY AND THAT THERE ARE TWO SIDES IN CONTINUED
FIGHTING. SD ALSO REPORTED SPEECH OF MODERATE RIKSDAGSMAN
ANDER BJORCK WHO ATTACKED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE REGIME FOR
ITS OPPRESSION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND UNDEMOCRATIC METHODS.
THIS WAS ONLY RIPPLE OF OPPOSITION WE NOTED DURING VISIT.

COMMENT: SEVERAL ELEMENTS COMBINED TO PRODUCE WHAT OBSERVERS
HAVE CALLED MOST SUCCESSFUL STATE VISIT TO SWEDEN IN MANY
YEARS. FOREMOST WAS HERO IMAGE AND PERSONALITY OF DONG WHO
HAS BEEN GREATLY CELEBRATED HERE AS KIND OF GEORGE WASHINGTON/

SIMON BOLIVAR FIGURE, SOMEHOW MIXED UP IN SWEDISH MIND WITH HO CHI MIN. SECOND ELEMENT IS LONG-TIME SWEDISH PREOCCUPATION WITH VIETNAM AND STEADY MEDIA DOSAGES OF THE ALMOST ANGELIC CHARACTER OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. ALTHOUGH INTEREST IN VIETNAM HAS WANED CONSIDERABLY AS WE HAVE REPORTED, THIS WAS A SORT OF THROWBACK TO RECENT PAST WHEN SWEDES TURNED OUT BY TENS OF THOUSANDS TO DEMONSTRATE ABOUT VIETNAM. ALSO THIMING, IF DELIBERATE, WAS CLEVER. EASTER IS ONE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEW TIMES WHEN SWEDES REMEMBER RELIGION AND IT WAS A KIND OF BEAUTITUDE TO WELCOME THIS SAINTLY, GRANDFATHERLY FIGURE AND BACK IN MUTUAL LOVE AND ACCEPT HIS THANKS FOR SWEDISH GENEROSITY. THE ANOMALIES WERE NOT BROUGHT OUT. BALMY SPRING WEATHER FIRST TWO DAYS ALSO HELPED. DESPITE SUCCESSFUL VISIT WE DO NOT SEE ANY CHECK TO THE STEADY DIMANUTION OF INTEREST IN VIETNAM HERE. ALTHOUGH LOVE HANOI SPIRIT REMAINS STRONG, SWEDES ALSO NEED A HATE IMAGE TO MAINTAIN STEADY INTEREST AND USG NO LONGER FULFILLS VILLAIN ROLE DESPITE ACTIVE EFFORTS OF FNL TO KEEP ROLE ALIVE. HIRABAYASHI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STOCKH01628
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740086-0186
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740443/aaaabmvw.tel
Line Count: 248
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHAM VAN DONG VISIT TO SWEDEN SUMMARY: NORTH VIETNAMESE PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG'S STATE VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, VN, SW, (PHAM VAN DONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005